

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

----- 060367

R 241844Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9053

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 6559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN EXPRESS EXECUTIVE JAIME
MAZAL KAMI

1. ON SATURDAY, JULY 19, AT ABOUT 11:15, FIVE ARMED MEN
KIDNAPPED MR. JAIME MAZAL KAMI, THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
OF THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY IN MEXICO, AS HE WAS
ARRIVING AT HIS HOME. HIS CAPTORS FLED WITH THEIR HOSTAGE
IN A TAXI AND VOLKSWAGON WHICH BOTH HAD BEEN REPORTED
STOLEN ON JULY 18.

2. SHORTLY AFTER MAZAL'S ABDUCTION (BY SOME ACCOUNTS WITHIN
15 MINUTES), HIS KIDNAPPERS TELEPHONED HIS WIFE, MRS.
PATRICIA POPE MAZAL, AND DEMANDED A RANSOM OF TWO MILLION
PESOS US DOLS 160,000) IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF
MAZAL. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT, MRS. MAZAL WHO WAS
JOINED BY HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, CARLOS MAZAL, RECEIVED TWO OR
MORE ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE CALLS FROM THE KIDNAPPERS IN WHICH
THEY ADMONISHED THE MAZALS NOT TO NOTIFY THE POLICE AND
REFUSED TO ACCEPT CARLOS' OFFER OF A ONE-MILLION PESO
RANSOM, SAYING THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT A "CENTAVO"
LESS THAN THE TWO MILLION DEMANDED. AFTER SOME INITIAL
INTRANSIGENCE, THE KIDNAPPERS QUICKLY REVERSED THEM-

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SELVES AND ACCEPTED CARLOS MAZAL'S OFFER OF ONE MILLION

PESOS. CARLOS DELIVERED THE RANSOM IN A SMALL WHITE SUITCASE TO A LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE KIDNAPPERS IN THE HEART OF MEXICO CITY AT ABOUT 2:30 AM JULY 21 AND JAIME WAS RELEASED WITHIN A HALF HOUR ON A CITY STREET A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY. DURING 27 HOURS OF CAPTIVITY, JAIME WAS MISTREATED AND SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES FROM BEING KICKED AND STRUCK BY THE KIDNAPPERS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE KIDNAPPERS CLAIMED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT, LOCAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY CRIMINALS ATTEMPTING TO THROW THE POLICE OFF THE TRACK WITH A FEW RATHER UNCONVINCING REFERENCES TO "THE CAUSE".

4. THE KIDNAPPERS APPARENTLY SELECTED JAIME MAZAL AS THEIR VICTIM BECAUSE HE LIVES IN A LARGE HOUSE IN A WELL-TO-DO SECTION OF MEXICO CITY (THE SAME SECTION WHERE ABOUT HALF OF THE EMBASSY FAMILIES LIVE AS DO A LARGE NUMBER OF US AND MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS). THE KIDNAPPERS DIRECTED THEIR DEMANDS TO MAZAL'S IMMEDIATE RELATIVES RATHER THAN AMERICAN EXPRESS AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THEY WERE AWARE HE HELD AN EXECUTIVE POSITION IN A US COMPANY. PRESS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS PAID THE RANSOM, A FACT WHICH IS HIGHLY DISTURBING TO COMPANY OFFICIALS.

5. THE KIDNAPPERS CALLED MAZAL "A JEW" DURING HIS CAPTIVITY AND APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF HIS CLOSE TIES WITH THE US. JAIME MAZAL'S FATHER WAS BORN IN TURKEY AND A US CITIZEN OF SYRIAN AND LEBANESE EXTRACTION. THE ELDER MAZAL DID NOT RESIDE IN THE US LONG ENOUGH TO TRANSMIT CITIZENSHIP TO HIS SON. JAIME MAZAL' MOTHER WAS BORN IN MEXICO AS WAS JAIME HIMSELF. BOTH ARE MEXICAN CITIZENS. HIS WIFE, NEE PATRICIA POPE, IS A US CITIZEN AS ARE HIS TWO CHILDREN. JAIME MAZAL(AKA JAMES ELIOT MAZAL) HAS MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES AND COULD EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR AMERICAN HIMSELF. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY AND WITHOUT AN ACCENT. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO06559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750256-0281
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750726/aaaaawwk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN EXPRESS EXECUTIVE JAIME MAZAL KAMI
TAGS: PINS, MX, (MAZAL KAMI, JAIME)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006